

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-3 were allowed, and claims 4-6 were objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form. The Examiner indicated that the application is in condition for allowance except for correction of the specification and claims, which are replete with informalities. Prosecution on the merits was otherwise closed.

Applicant and applicant's counsel note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-3.

In order to place the application in allowable form, the specification has been extensively revised to correct informalities and to otherwise bring the specification into better conformance with U.S. practice. Appropriate headings have been added, and a brief description of the drawing figures has been included. A new abstract has also been added.

Claims 1-6 have been amended to overcome numerous informalities and to bring the claims into better conformance with U.S. practice. Multiple dependent claims 4-6 have been amended to properly depend on any one of claims 1 and 2, as in the case of claim 3.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the specification showing the changes made thereto by the present

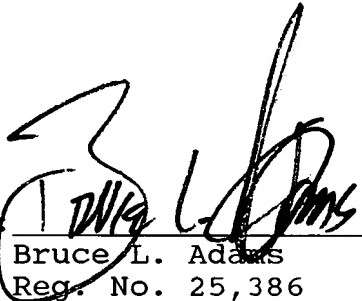
response. Also attached is a marked-up copy of the claims showing the changes made by this response.

As all informalities and objections have been overcome, the application is now believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.


Bruce L. Adams

Attorney Name

Signature

OCTOBER 30, 2001

Date

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